## Written Testimony AGAINST the Governor's Bill No. 7192

Respectfully submitted by:

Tammy Ward 72 Seir Hill Rd. Wilton, CT 06897

Chairpersons and Members of the Planning and Development Committee;

I am writing to you today in STRONG OPPOSITION to the Governor's Bill No. 7192 -An Act Concerning Municipal and Regional Opportunities and Efficiencies, particularly with regard to Sections 7-10, addressing the establishment of a Commission on Shared School Services, their proposed duties and the reports they are authorized to request from towns, schools and municipalities.

My husband and I moved to Wilton, CT from New York City 7 yrs. ago when I was pregnant with our now 6 yr. old. daughter specifically for the great reputation of the school system in this community. I believe that the intention of this bill and its wording threatens to weaken the quality of our public schools by removing the voice of parents and teachers, who are the greatest advocates for our children not the legislators who seek to redistrict and consolidate them.

It is greatly disturbing to see that this Commission is given the mandate to redistrict or consolidate school services AND school districts! The word "redistricting" and "consolidating" are repeated seven other times in section 7 to 10.

Another great concern I see is that the bill does not say whether the local Legislature will get to vote on the plan developed by the commission which seems to me to be an underhanded attempt to remove our input from the plans which will directly affect the quality of our local schools.

Another serious issue I have is that the Commission consists of 14 members ALL appointed by the Leaders of the Legislature and the Governor (Line 450-477) and will exist for EIGHT YEARS UNTIL JUNE 30<sup>th,</sup> 2027 (Line 492). Parents and citizens alike will NOT have control in the formation of the Commission and of the 14 members, only ONE member is required to be a parent of a student enrolled in a public school.

Therefore, the views of parents like me will not be adequately represented in this composition and I stand FIRMLY AGAINST it and urge the members of the P&D committee to do so as well!

T. Ward,

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